

Application No. I0/040,887

Reply to Office Action Dated September 5, 2003

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The Examiner requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement. If the Examiner makes the restriction requirement final, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute on the merits, the claims of Species I as drawn to Figure 1. The claims of Species I are, namely, claims 1-23, 30-31, 45, 47-50, 54-55, 57-59 and 62-67. Applicants request that the remaining claims, claims 24-29, 32-44, 46, 51-53, 56, 60, 61 and 68-73 be withdrawn from consideration without prejudice. Applicants submit that should any generic claims be finally held allowable, then the species of the withdrawn claims will be considered as allowable as well.

If it would expedite the progress of this Application through the examination process, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 6, 2003

By: 

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED, POSTAGE PREPAID, WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON OCTOBER 6, 2003.

